

**WALSH ANNOUNCES THIRD MAJOR POLICY INITIATIVE;
"HOPE FOR ROCKLAND" WILL ADDRESS THE OPIOID AND HEROIN
EPIDEMIC IN ROCKLAND COUNTY**

NEW CITY, NY... Surrounded by representatives from Hope Not Handcuffs, Piermont Police Chief Mike O'Shea, and members of the community, Judge Tom Walsh announced his third major policy initiative of the campaign, "Hope for Rockland." Under the initiative, the Rockland County District Attorney's office will focus its attention and resources towards combatting the Opioid and Heroin Crisis afflicting our communities.

"As District Attorney, I am responsible for prosecuting those who break our laws. However, the ultimate goal of the Rockland County District Attorney's office is to provide a safe community for all of us to raise our families," Judge Walsh said. "In dealing with the heroin and opioid crisis we must come to terms with the fact that we will not be able to prosecute our way out of this epidemic. We need to make sure that our community extends a helping hand to those who have fallen victim to this highly addictive narcotic."

Judge Walsh's plan will focus on four important areas:

Helping But Firm Hand;
Offering treatment alternatives to incarceration;
Proactive Law Enforcement measures; and
Education

"This crisis requires a multifaceted approach and the cooperation of our medical and treatment professionals, elected leaders, law enforcement, the courts, and the community at large," declared Judge Walsh. "We must use every resource available to help those struggling with addiction, which is why I'm proud to work with law enforcement and organizations such as Hope Not Handcuffs and the Rockland Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependents to tackle this crisis head on."

In addition, Judge Walsh will work with local and state legislators to propose legislation that requires all public buildings to have Narcan on site; offer free trainings on how to administer Narcan; and work with our local municipalities, law enforcement, and pharmacies to hold monthly Drug Take Back Days.

"The opioid epidemic is now responsible for approximately 130 deaths a day nationwide and meaningful action must be taken to address this problem." Judge Walsh concluded, "My initiative "Hope for Rockland," offers the right balance of enforcement and a greater focus on prevention, treatment, and

alternative to incarceration programs to address this crisis. Together we can provide "Hope" for Rockland in battling this epidemic and save lives."